

Amendments to the Claims:

Please amend the claims as set forth below.

1. (Currently Amended) Lighting unit for vehicles comprising:
a plurality of semiconductor light sources (3) distributed in a grid, the grid of semiconductor light sources being divided into at least two grid segments, the grid segments being each activatable independently of each other;
an optical element (2) in the beam path of a light beam emitted by the semiconductor light sources,
the semiconductor light sources (3) being arranged on a common carrier substrate (5), with a chip cover (6) transparent to light in the direction of light propagation,
the chip cover (6) is filled with a light-scattering or light-converting auxiliary material (8); and
a shading device (9) ~~is provided~~, in the boundary region between one of said the activated grid segment[s] (10) and the unactivated another of said grid segment[s] (11), such that ~~a steeper transition~~ said shading device increases a gradient of light intensity is ~~formed~~ at a light/dark boundary.

2. (Currently Amended) Lighting unit according to claim 1, wherein the shading device (9) is arranged in the boundary region between ~~the first~~ an activated grid segment (10) and ~~the second~~ an unactivated grid segment (11).

3. (Previously Presented) Lighting unit according to claim 1 wherein the shading device (9) is designed as a partition which separates the two grid segments (10, 11) from each other and which projects from the carrier substrate (5) in the direction of light propagation.

4. (Currently Amended) Lighting unit according to claim 3, wherein the ~~partition (9)~~ shading device extends perpendicularly to the carrier substrate (5) and in that the free end of the ~~partition (9)~~ shading device is arranged at a distance from and/or tapering towards a front side (15) of the chip cover (6).

5. (Currently Amended) Lighting unit according to any of claims 1 wherein the semiconductor light sources (3) of the at least two grid segments (10, 11) are designed as a plurality of chips emitting UV radiation and/or emitting blue light, and arranged in the form of a semiconductor light source array.

6. (Previously Presented) Lighting unit according to claim 5, wherein the semiconductor light source (3) array ~~(4)~~ is arranged in a focal plane of the optical element (2, 16).

7. (Currently Amended) Lighting unit according to any of claims 1 wherein the ~~partition~~(9) shading device has a longitudinal extent in the direction of the path of the carrier substrate (5) corresponding to the formation of a the light/dark boundary.

8. (Previously Presented) Lighting unit according to any of claims 1 wherein the auxiliary material (8) is formed as a light converter, in particular by a luminescent material.

9. (Previously Presented) Lighting unit according to any of claims 1 wherein the carrier substrate (5) is of flat or curved construction.

10. (Currently Amended) Lighting unit according to any of claims 1 wherein on the a front side (15) of the chip cover (6) facing away from the carrier substrate (5) is arranged an optical element (16) resting directly on the chip cover (6).

11. (New) The lighting unit of claim 1 wherein said common carrier substrate is substantially on a single plane.

12. (New) The lighting unit of claim 1 wherein said steeper transition of light intensity is formed in a light/dark boundary between said first grid segment and said second grid segment.

13. (New) The lighting unit of claim 1 wherein said shading device is completely surrounded by said chip cover and contiguous with said chip cover.

14. (New) The lighting unit of claim 1 wherein said chip cover is a planar cast body adjoining said common carrier substrate.

15. (New) The lighting unit of claim 1 wherein said shading device is fixedly attached to said common carrier substrate.

16. (New) The lighting unit of claim 1 wherein said shading device is between said common carrier substrate and any optical element relative to a direction of light propagation.

17. (New) The lighting unit of claim 1 wherein said optical element abuts said chip cover, said chip cover abuts said light sources and said common carrier substrates.

18. (New) The lighting unit of claim 1 wherein said common carrier substrate is a single substrate.

19. (New) The lighting unit of claim 1 wherein said shading device reduces an edge stripe when only one of said grid segments is illuminated.

20. (New) The lighting unit of claim 1 wherein said shading device increases light separation between said two grid segments.